

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An equipment information system comprising:

an equipment database;

a database manager operable to access and interrogate the equipment database;

an inquiry module operable to query the equipment database through an interface;

an inventory module operable to store and change data in the equipment database through an interface, and to allocate an order;

a transportation module operable to record a transportation information related to the transport of equipment from central inventory location to one of a plurality of service centers using the equipment database and through an interface; and

an installations/removals module operable to record installation/removal information regarding the installation and removal of equipment within an area serviced by one of the plurality of service centers using the equipment database through an interface.

2. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to access the data in the equipment database.

3. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to change the data in the equipment database.

4. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the stored procedure is executed periodically.

5. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the stored procedure is executed on-demand through a graphical user interface.

6. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated through an external interface.

7. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated through a second stored procedure.

8. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an external interface operable to exchange information with the equipment database.

9. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to automatically order equipment and to store the order in the equipment database.

10. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the equipment database includes data organized into tables.

11. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the database manager and the equipment database are provided at a server and the modules are provided as an executable at a client.

12. (Original) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an allocation stored procedure operable to automatically allocate equipment through a stock number based on the receipt of an order.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for managing equipment information comprising:

storing attributes of a piece of equipment in an equipment information database that indicates the type of the equipment when the equipment is received at a central inventory location;

adding an indication in the equipment information database that the equipment is available inventory;

receiving an order for equipment needed at one of a plurality of service centers that is of the same type as the equipment;

allocating inventory to the order based on available inventory in the equipment information database;

shipping the equipment for the order to one of the plurality of service centers;

storing shipment attributes in the equipment information database related to shipment of the piece of equipment from the central inventory location to one of the plurality of service centers;

installing the equipment in an area serviced by the one of plurality of service centers where the equipment was shipped;

updating the equipment information database with installation information to indicate that the equipment has been installed and further to indicate the area where the equipment was installed and the one of the plurality of service centers associated with the area;

removing the equipment;
updating the equipment information database that the
equipment has been removed and updating a removal
information related to reasons for the removal; and
shipping the equipment to the central inventory location.

14. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, wherein the equipment is a transformer.

15. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, wherein the attributes of the equipment
includes serial number and manufacturer.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, wherein the storing attributes of a
piece of equipment includes using a bar code scanner.

18. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an
external system.

19. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, further comprising:
deallocating the order after allocating the order.

20. (Original) The method for managing equipment
information of Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an
automatically generated order.

21. (Original) The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, further comprising:
filling the order after allocating the order.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for allocating an order in an equipment information system comprising:
receiving an order to supply equipment from an equipment inventory at a central inventory location to a service center;
determining if the order is eligible for allocation;
determining if equipment is available in the equipment inventory to allocate the order;
allocating the order when the equipment is available and when the equipment is unavailable further generating a purchase order information to purchase the equipment from an equipment vendor and electronically communicating the purchase order information to an accounting system, and in response to receiving the equipment further electronically communicating with the accounting system indicating receipt of the ordered equipment and authorizing payment to the equipment vendor; and
filling the order.

23. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a compliance module to record a compliance information related to the equipment.

24. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 23, wherein the compliance information is further defined as a rate base information related to a location of the equipment and a date the equipment went into service.

25. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 24, wherein the rate base information relates to a utility rate for utility services provided by regulated utilities.

26. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 24, wherein the compliance module is operable to communicate with an accounting system to communicate the rate base information between the accounting system and the equipment information system for determining a utility rate base.

27. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 1, wherein the compliance information is further defined as a testing information related to the equipment.

28. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 27, wherein the testing information is further defined as environmental testing information related to the equipment.

29. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim of 27, wherein the equipment includes transformers and wherein the testing information is further defined as environmental tests of transformers.

30. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a work module operable to plan a construction related to an electrical distribution system and further operable to identify the equipment needed for the construction, the work module coupled to the inquiry module to query the equipment database for the equipment for the construction and further coupled to the inventory module to allocate equipment for the construction.

31. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a graphical information module to graphically illustrate an electrical distribution system.

32. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the equipment includes transformers and wherein the electrical distribution system illustrated by the graphical information module is further defined as a portion of an electric grid of an electric utility.

33. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the graphical information module graphically represents an electrical characteristic and a physical characteristic of the electrical distribution system.

34. (Withdrawn) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the graphical information module is further operable to track and monitor an electrical loading and a performance of the electrical distribution system.

35. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the area where the equipment is installed is further defined as a geographical area serviced by one of the plurality of service centers.

36. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of service centers is associated with a different geographical area.

37. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 36, wherein the installation/removal modules are further operable to record an area information associated with the geographical area and further operable to record a service center information related to the service center associated with the geographical area where the equipment is installed and removed.

38. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 36, wherein the installation/removal modules are further operable to record an installation information specific to placing the equipment in service.

39. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 38, wherein the equipment is further defined as a transformer and wherein the installation information includes a transformer wiring information related to wiring the transformer placed in service in the geographic area.

40. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 36, wherein the installation/removal modules are

further operable to record a removal information related to reason for removing the equipment from service.

41. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the equipment is further defined as capacitors.

42. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the equipment is further defined as switch gear.

43. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the transportation information related to the transport of equipment further includes a status information related to the status of equipment being shipped between the central inventory and one of the plurality of service centers.

44. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 43, wherein the transportation information further includes driver planning information.

45. (Previously Presented) The equipment information system of Claim 44, wherein the transportation information further includes weight information related to the weight of the equipment to be shipped, a shipment time information related to the time for shipment of the equipment, a lading information related to bills of lading and loading documents for the equipment to be shipped.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the area where the equipment is installed is further defined as a geographical area serviced by one of the plurality of service centers.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of service centers is associated with a different geographical area.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein the installation/removal modules are further operable to record an area information associated with the geographical area and further operable to record a service center information related to the service center associated with the geographical area where the equipment is installed and removed.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the shipment attributes stored in the equipment information database include:

- a status information related to the status of equipment being shipped between the central inventory and one of the plurality of service centers;
- a driver planning information;
- a weight information related to the weight of the equipment to be shipped;
- a shipment time information related to the time for shipment of the equipment; and
- a document information related to bills of lading and loading documents for the equipment to be shipped.